

**Introduced by Senator Block**

**(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Hall, Leno, and Vidak)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Travis Allen, Calderon, Chu, and Lackey)

February 2, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 16—Relative to Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 16, as introduced, Block. Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the week of March 2, 2015, through March 8, 2015, as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The week of March 2, 2015, through March 8,  
2 2015, has been declared Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week in  
3 recognition of the importance of finding the cause of, and a cure  
4 for, multiple sclerosis and to express appreciation to the National  
5 Multiple Sclerosis Society and its California chapters; and  
6 WHEREAS, Multiple sclerosis is a neurological disease of the  
7 central nervous system that affects an estimated 400,000 Americans  
8 across the country, and nearly 200 new cases are diagnosed each  
9 week nationwide; and  
10 WHEREAS, More than 40,000 people in California are affected  
11 by this devastating disease; and  
12 WHEREAS, Twice as many women as men have multiple  
13 sclerosis and most are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50,  
14 and while studies indicate genetic factors make certain individuals

1 more susceptible than others, there is no evidence that multiple  
2 sclerosis is directly inherited; and

3 WHEREAS, The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, founded  
4 in 1946, funds more research, offers more services for people with  
5 multiple sclerosis, and provides more professional education  
6 programs than any other multiple sclerosis organization in the  
7 world. Through its 50-state network of chapters, the society serves  
8 more than one million people annually; and

9 WHEREAS, The society is the largest private supporter of  
10 multiple sclerosis research in the world, and for more than 55 years  
11 it has funded innovative research and advocated for government  
12 support of important scientific inquiries; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the California chapters of  
14 the society have been committed to heightening public knowledge  
15 and insight, and are currently planning several major statewide  
16 educational programs to raise awareness about the effects of  
17 multiple sclerosis; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares the week of  
20 March 2, 2015, through March 8, 2015, as Multiple Sclerosis  
21 Awareness Week, and that the residents of the State of California  
22 are encouraged to join together in raising awareness and  
23 heightening public knowledge of this debilitating disease; and be  
24 it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
26 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.